

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 11 and 16 have been amended. Claims 1, 17 and 15 have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 2-6, 8-14 and 16-18 are presented for examination.

Applicants acknowledge that claims 8-10 and 16-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 7 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Rodriguez et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,815,356). In addition, claims 1-6 and 11-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art (APA) in view of Chen (U.S. Patent No. 6,169,389).

Applicants submit that the rejections have been obviated by the cancellation of claims 1, 7 and 15, and the amendment of claims 8, 11 and 16. Particularly, claims 8 and 16 have been amended to appear in condition for allowance as indicated by the Examiner's asserted allowable subject matter. Moreover, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable limitations recited in claims 8 and 16.

Applicants therefore submit that the rejections have been overcome, and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

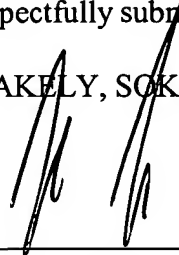
The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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Mark L. Watson
Reg. No. 46,322

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(303) 740-1980